

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-15 IO-13

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R 241335Z FEB 77

FM AMEMBASSY ANKARA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6567

INFO AMEMBASSY ATHENS

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY NICOSIA

AMCONSUL ADANA

AMCONSUL ISTANBUL

AMCONSUL IZMIR

UNCLAS ANKARA 1415

E.O.11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, TU, CY, GR, US

SUBJECT: PRESS COVERAGE OF THE CLIFFORD MISSION

1. FEBRUARY 24 TURKISH PRESS CONTINUED TO GIVE PROMINENT COVERAGE TO THE CLIFFORD MISSION, MAINLY IN STRAIGHT NEWS ACCOUNTS OF FEBRUARY 23 ANKARA AIRPORT STATEMENTS OF SECRETARY CLIFFORD AND FONMIN CAGLAYANGIL, QUESTION AND ANSWER SESSION AND CLIFFORD'S INITIAL STATEMENT IN CYPRUS.

2. PRESS CONTINUED TO SPECULATE ON CLIFFORD'S CONVERSATIONS HERE. HURRIYET REPORTED THAT CLIFFORD WAS DEEPLY INTERESTED IN QUESTION OF EARLY ELECTIONS AND TERCUMAN QUOTED AN UNNAMED TURKISH OFFICIAL WHO SAID THAT CLIFFORD LISTENED RATHER THAN PRESENTING PROPOSALS. GUNAYDIN HEADLINED ONE REPORT "CLIFFORD WILL NOT RECOMMEND LIFTING THE EMBARGO" AND IN A SEPARATE ARTICLE CRITICIZED THAT "CLIFFORD, WHO WILL BE IN CYPRUS FOR 60 HOURS, COULD SET APART ONLY EIGHT HOURS FOR THE TURKISH SECTION.Z

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3. MANY PAPERS FEATURED EDITORIALS ON THE CLIFFORD VISIT. LEFTIST CUMHURIYET'S NADIR NADI WROTE THAT "WHAT SEEMS TO HAVE EMERGED IS THAT THE U.S. IS GOING TO BE HARSHER ON THE EMBARGO" AND ALI SIRMEN WONDERED "DID CLIFFORD PERHAPS SHOW THE SUBTLETY OF PRESENTING ULTIMATUMS AS SOFT RECOMMENDATIONS?" MASS CIRCULATION BUNAYDIN EDITORIALIEZED

THAT "AMERICA IS BRINGING PRESSURE TO BEAR ON TURKEY" BY DEMANDING THAT THE CYPRUS AND GREEK PROBLEMS BE SOLVED BEFORE THE EMBARGO IS LIFTED AND THE DCA APPROVED. "THE SWORD OF DAMOCLES WILL HANG OVER THE TURKS WHILE THEY DISCUSS MATTERS WITH GREECE AND CYPRUS." THE EDITORIAL CONCLUDED THAT TURKISH FOREIGN POLICY WOULD CHANGE IN A NEW DIRECTION. RIGHT WING BAYRAK STATED THAT IF CLIFFORD'S "FACT-FINDING" WAS OBJECTIVE, SOME SOLUTION CAN BE FOUND TO PROBLEMS, BUT "WHILE THE ARMS EMBARGO REMAINS, NO MENTION CAN BE MADE OF FRIENDSHIP." PRO-REPUBLICAN PEOPLE'S PARTY (RPP) BARIS EDITORIALIZED "THE CLIFFORD TRIP PROVES CARTER'S INTEREST IN THE GREEKS." BARIS PREDICTED THAT THE DENKTASH OFFER OF CONCESSIONS TO MAKARIOS "WILL NOT SUFFICE TO MOVE CLIFFORD AND CARTER TO LIFT THE EMBARGO..THE GENERAL OPINION AMONG AMERICANS AND GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS IS THAT BOTH THE CYPRUS PROBLEM AND (BILATERAL) RELATIONS WILL BE LEFT UNTIL AFTER THE (TURKISH) ELECTIONS." MACOMBER

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